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NEW CALIF. POLL HAS SMITH AHEAD OF REINER.

In the Demo primary for AG, the latest data released by the Calif. Poll shows another major REVERSAL from past results. S.F. DA Arlo Smith leads L.A. DA Ira Reiner by a narrow 31% to 30% margin, with 39% undecided. This is a 14-point turnaround from the October Calif Poll, where Reiner led 36% to 23%. Insiders think Reiner's early numbers were based more on name I.D. than actual support. And there's little doubt that the highly publicized McMartin Case may have caused slippage for Reiner. Whatever the case, Smith (aka The Nerd from the North), is a VERY HAPPY CAMPER. Stay tuned...

POLITICAL HANKY PANKY IN 31st S.D. SPECIAL?

Did a political "dirty" trick play a significant part in the outcome of the recent special election in the 31st S.D.??? GOP Assemblyman Frank Hill won the Feb. 6 special by 900 votes over fellow GOP Assemblyman Gil Ferguson and two other Republicans. But going into the last week of the campaign, some insiders thought GOP challenger Ron Isles of Brea might win. It was felt there would be a large Demo cross-over vote for Isles, based on his PRO-CHOICE stand. But it didn't happen...

...Just days before the election, 31st S.D. Demos got a mailing from a group called The Voter Information League, based in Sacto. The mailing urged Demos to support Janice Graham, the best known Democrat in the contest who is liberal and a strong PRO-CHOICE candidate. The mailer for Graham blasted all the Republicans. According to sources, when Graham first saw the mailing, she was thrilled. but then discovered the truth...

...In fact, the Voter Information League is probably a Republican group, based on information CALPEEK has obtained. The group's treasurer, Allison Turner, is quoted in the Orange Co. Register as saying financial sup-

port for the group's recent effort for Graham came from firms and people who are close to Ferguson, a hardline, PRO-LIFE conservative. A check with the Secretary of State showed a fair number of contributions from Irvine, Newport Beach and Anaheim. The big donations came from Fieldstead & Co. of Irvine (\$35,000) and from L.A.-based Petersen Publishing Co. (\$5,000)...

...If the object of the mailing was to stop Isles, the tactic worked because Graham got 9,357 votes. Without the mailer, sources think she might have gotten 4,500. Regardless, Graham is in an April 10th runoff with Hill. But did the mailing help Ferguson more than Hill? Maybe, because Ferguson received more votes on election day. Had it not been for AV ballots, Hill might have lost to Ferguson. Bottomline: hanky panky. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 1990: SPRING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Editor's note: About 30% of Calif.'s 440 cities will hold an early round of municipal elections April 10th. A handful will hold elections in March. Here is a CALPEEK report on two elections of interest:

● **TORRANCE** - This is L.A. County's 3rd largest city, with 141,500 people, of whom about 72,000 are registered voters. Mayor Katy Geissert is unopposed in her bid to win another term and 3 incumbent councilmembers, Mark Wirth, Bill Applegate and Dee Hardison, have only one opponent. This would be a very dull Mar. 6 election if it were not for Prop. A...

...Months ago Councilman Dan Walker qualified Prop. A, which simply states that no company may store more than 250 gallons of HYDROFLUORIC ACID at any one time. This measure is aimed right at Mobil Oil's Tor-

{Continued Next Page}

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rance refinery, a plant which has had its share of accidents over the years, including 4 fatalities...

...There's no doubt hydrofluoric acid is a highly DANGEROUS substance. If an accident took place involving this acid, a poison gas cloud has the potential to kill thousands. Mobil uses about 131,000 gallons of hydrofluoric acid annually in its refining process to make gasoline. This plant makes 12% of So. Calif.'s gasoline, so Mobil has a major economic stake in this election...

...In their direct mail campaign, Prop. A supporters have drawn a comparison to the Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal, India. Hard hitting stuff designed by consultant Allan Hoffenblum. The YES on A Committee will probably spend \$30,000. A drop in the bucket to Mobil Oil Corp. Refinery Safety Committee, which could spend \$500,000 - a figure confirmed by Mobil's consultant, L.A.-based Braun & Co...

...But Mobil isn't alone in this fight. While not sympathetic with the oil company, Mayor Geissert and the remaining council members are opposed to Walker's initiative. They fear, with some justification, that if Prop. A wins, Mobil will send a team of lawyers into court to sue the city and its new law. Defending such a lawsuit could cost a small bundle, which is why the city has placed Prop. B on the ballot - to raise the Gann Spending Limit -- just in case...

...Bottomline: Although they seem to be cooperating now, Mobil hasn't always been the best of corporate neighbors, so Prop. A could be a close contest...

- WEST HOLLYWOOD - With incumbents Helen Albert and Steve Schulte stepping down, only John Heilman is left from the original group of council members first elected when West Hollywood became a city in 1984. Heilman is seeking reelection April 10 and he should win without much trouble in this upscale city of 38,000, where RENT CONTROL is still a sacred cow...

...Of the other "serious" contenders, the frontrunner for one spot is WH Rent Comm. Babette Lang, who is on the steering committee of the Coalition for Economic Survival (CES), the powerful grassroots organization which dominates city politics. Lang is team-

ing with Heilman and Skelton, Grover & Assoc. are running the campaign. CES has endorsed both Heilman and Lang...

...Also endorsed by CES, but running an independent campaign is Rent Comm. Sal Guarriello. And then there is Rent Comm. Steve Martin, an anti-CES candidate, who is already warring with Heilman. Martin is allied with Schulte and some of the neighborhood slow growers. Bottomline: Heilman and Lang ought to win two spots, with a real battle for the other. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 1990: BALLOT MEASURE UPDATE.

Editor's note: More initiatives have been OKed for circulation for the November 1990 ballot. CALPEEK has written about several of these measures in the past, so here is our BRIEF update...

- "Criminalized Drug Use" is the title of a proposed statute that would REPEAL all laws that prohibit the use and possession of criminalized drugs in Calif. The author is Tom Neece of Redwood Valley. He has until June 29 to collect 372,178 valid signatures...

- Mr. Neece is a busy boy, because he also has a statute called, "Marijuana." It does away with all restrictions/laws on pot. Neece has until June 29 to qualify this measure...

- Another reapportionment plan has been submitted, this one by W. Bruce Lee. The official title is "Reapportionment by: Legislature; Supreme Court. Judicial Review." This plan requires a 2/3rds vote by the Legislature. In addition, upon petition by any eligible voter, the CA Supreme Court would be required to review the plan to insure it was lawful. Lee can be reached at (916)852-1204. He has until July 2 to get 595,485 names for the November ballot...

- Richard Noble is the chief sponsor of "Reapportionment: Legislature; Supreme Court. Judicial Review." It is similar to the Lee plan. Noble has until July 2 to gather signatures. For info, call Noble at (213)485-0231...

- Joel Fox of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. and Richard Gann (son of the late Paul Gann) are sponsors of "State, Local Taxation," a constitutional initiative that

would make it tougher for State and local governments to pass new taxes. Fox and Gann have until July 9 to collect 595,485 valid signatures. Gann can be reached at (916)366-3500...

- Fox and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. also have been given the green light to begin circulating a measure aimed at protecting the initiative process itself. It is titled, "Initiative and Referendum Process." Although the legal deadline for collecting 595,485 signatures is July 9, Fox is aiming for a May 15 deadline. Fox can be reached at (213)384-9656...

- Son of Prop. 103, officially titled "State Administered Auto Insurance. Auto Claims Court," has been given the green light to collect 595,485 by a July 9 deadline. The sponsor is Santa Monica based Voter Revolt, led by Harvey Rosenfield and political consultant Bill Zimmerman. For info (213)383-9618...

- "Pesticide Regulation," is the title of a statute sponsored by a broad-based agri-business committee known as Californians for Responsible Food Laws(CAREFUL). The committee has until July 13 to collect 372,178 signatures. For info, contact Lee Stitzenberger of The Dolphin Group at (213)208-2054...

FIELD SET FOR SPECIAL TO REPLACE KILLEA.

Editor's note: A group of 3 Republicans, 5 Demos and 2 minor party candidates round out the field in this contest to replace Lucy Killea(D-San Diego) in the 78th Assembly District. Killea moved up to the State Senate, replacing Larry Stirling, now a San Diego judge. The special is set April 10, with a runoff to coincide with the June 5 primary. Sources say it's been quiet so far, perhaps because most of the candidates also have signed up in the regular June 5 election -- and that's where they are concentrating right now. Here is CALPEEK's brief update & analysis...

...Republicans liked to brag that when the popular Lucy Killea vacated the 78th A.D., it would be EASY for the GOP to pick off this district. Registration is about 45% Demo to 40% GOP, meaning this is NOT safe Demo turf. But to win, one needs a well known candidate with an ability to raise money and attract a solid following. In

the 78th A.D., the Republican lineup is considered WEAK by several CALPEEK sources. The GOP candidates are Jeff Marston, ex-AA to former San Diego Councilwoman Gloria McColl; Jane Ramshaw, an insurance/business executive; and Helen Rowe, an attorney...

...Not super impressive and with the exception of Marston, almost unknown within insider ranks. So why wasn't the GOP in San Diego able to recruit better candidates? CALPEEK sources say that several well known conservatives DID give the race serious consideration, but backed away because they felt their particular philosophy wouldn't sell in the district...

...As for the Democrats, they have a fair to good shot at holding Killea's seat. The frontrunner is former San Diego Councilman Mike Gotch, but Deputy AG Howard Wayne and Byron Georgiou, the former legal secretary to Gov. Jerry Brown, also are considered solid contenders. Other Demos include Judy Abeles and A.L. "Bud" Brooks, who describes himself as an anti-abortion Democrat. The other Demos are all PRO-CHOICE...

...There's no doubt that Gotch is the best known of the entire field. He has 84% name ID among Demos and 75% ID among all voters in the area. In terms of fundraising, it's Georgiou who is out front. Still it is too early to detect which way the political winds are blowing, but look for Wayne and perhaps Georgiou to begin pounding away at frontrunner Gotch, especially on the former councilman's support for the Belmont Park commercial development project, which even Gotch admits wasn't one of his best votes. Stay tuned...

CALIFORNIANS FOR PRIVACY AGAINST PROP. 115.

It was only a matter of time before solid opposition formed against Prop. 115, the Speedy Trial/Crime Victims Initiative that will appear on the June ballot. The main opposition group is called "Californians for Privacy." HQ is at 1543 W. Olympic Blvd., Ste. P-3, L.A. 90015 (213)380-1057. No on Prop. 115 also has an office in Sacto and a second L.A. office. NO on 115 has hired consultants Mark Siegel and Jack Nicholl to run the campaign. Groups which are part of the NO on 115 coalition include the Amer. Academy of Pediatrics, Amer. Assn. of Univ. Women, ACLU, Amer. College of Obstetrics & Gynecology of CA, CA Abortion Rights

Action League, CA Attys. for Criminal Justice, CA Civil Rights Coalition, CA Women Lawyers, Nat'l Council of Jewish Women, Nat'l Lawyers Guild, NWPC, S.F. County Bar Assn., So. CA Women's Law Center and Women For...

FILTHY FIVE NAMED BY ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP.

Mirror, mirror: which members of the CA Legislature have the worst records when it comes to voting on bills impacting the ENVIRONMENT? According to the CA League of Conservation Voters, the "FILTHY FIVE" include State Senators John Doolittle(R-Roseville) and Don Rogers(R-Bakersfield); and Assemblymembers Dennis Brown(R-Long Beach), Gil Ferguson(R-Newport Beach) and Nolan Frizzelle(R-Huntington Beach). Of this group, the WORST is Brown, sometimes called "Dr. No," because of all the negative votes he casts. He voted correctly on environmental issues only 11% of the time. In 1988 he was rated at 4% and in 1987 a "0". So he is getting "better." Of the current Filthy Five, Ferguson could end up on a LVC target list for the June GOP primary...

DECLINE IN VOTING TOPIC FOR W.I.P.A. LUNCH.

"The Vanishing Voter: The Steady Decline in Voiting in the U.S." is the subject of a speech by Michael Hudson, VP & general counsel of People for the Amer. Way. Reception at 11:30 a.m., 12 noon speech, Feb. 28th, Mayfair Hotel, L.A., sponsored by Women In Public Affairs. For info and RSVPs, Geneva Jenkins at Union Bank, (213)236-5634...

FULL METAL JACKET 1990: ANOTHER GUN BILL.

Editor's note: The legislative battle to win passage of a law calling for a 15-day waiting period on the purchase of all GUNS isn't over just yet. Gov. George Deukmejian (as of CALPEEK's deadline) had NOT signed AB 497 into law. And now there is a battle brewing over the trailer bill to AB 497. Here is a brief update...

...There's little doubt that Calif. voters will be hit with all sorts of political messages in 1990 about some of the State's new gun laws. AB 497, if it becomes law, will not be an exception. How does the voting public feel? According to the latest Calif. Poll, 81% of those questioned FAVOR a 15-day waiting period law (AB 497), while 18% were opposed. In a political context, the survey data suggests some lawmakers who sided with the GUN LOBBY against AB 497

might end up in political hot water...

...Now add to the mix SB 1628 by Sen. David Roberti(D-L.A.). It spells out in specific language how AB 497 will be enforced. For example, under SB 1628, the AG will have to design a new report form (Dealer Record of Sales) to be filled out by those who buy rifles or shotguns. There's already a form for handguns. Once that report form is turned in and checked, the AG's office MUST destroy the "long gun" form within 5 days or face misdemeanor charges. The same provisions apply to local law enforcement agencies, who get copies of the form...

...In other words, SB 1628 bans shotgun and rifle REGISTRATION. Mention the word registration and gunowners go nuts. Thus legislators who vote against this bill could get bashed by LAW ENFORCEMENT organizations who supported AB 497, and from the politically active sportsmen's groups as well. The real force behind this ban on long gun registration is Sen. Ed Davis(R-Valencia). Without such protections in the trailer bill, Davis would never have supported the main bill, AB 497...

...While they like the provisions that ban long gun registration, the GUN LOBBY in general isn't thrilled with this trailer bill and is working behind the scenes to make amendments. If they have to live with some sort of a background check on persons who buy long guns, the gun lobby would prefer to see an INSTANT check via computer. CALPEEK will update this story as events unfold. Stay tuned...

MARKETPLACE NETWORK

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